

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02528 251729Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /060 W

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R 251634Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3047

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 2528

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

1. FORMER SEC STATE ROGERS, VISITING BEIRUT FOR MERRILL LYNCH, QUOTED ON SEVERAL ASPECTS OF MIDEAST SITUATION IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED JOINTLY IN LEADING INDEPENDENT ARABIC "AN-NAHAR" AND FRENCH-LANGUAGE "L'ORIENT-LE JOUR" FEBRUARY 22.

2. ON CURRENT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS: "MOST OF THE POINTS OF THE ROGERS PLAN ARE BEING TAKEN UP AGAIN TODAY. WHAT IS GOING ON NOW DIFFERS BUT LITTLE FROM MY PROPOSALS."

3. ON STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH: "I HAD SUCCEEDED, DESPITE ISRAEL'S RELUCTANCE, IN MAKING GOOD A CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. AND I WAS THEN CAMPAIGNING FOR A STEP-BY-STEP COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. IN FACT, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEAT THE PARTIES INVOLVED DIRECTLY AROUND A TABLE, WITH ALL THE ISSUES OF THE CONFLICT IN FRONT OF THEM. THEREFORE, ONE PROCEEDS STEP BY STEP. YET, MY STEPS WERE GREATER ONES. IT WAS THE SINAI AS A SHOLE WHICH WAS TO BE GIVEN BACK TO EGYPT AS A FIRST STEP. FINALLY, TO GET THE ROGERS PLAN IMPLEMENTED TODAY, THERE HAD TO BE A WAR AND A WORLD ENERGY CRISIS."

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4. ON RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE: "I HAVE NEVER MADE ONE

STATEMENT THAT DID NOT REFER TO THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. NO FINAL SETTLEMENT CAN BE REACHED WITHOUT THEIR RIGHTS AND THEIR INTERESTS BEING SECURED. OBVIOUSLY, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHEN AND HOW. THERE ARE SO MANY CONTRADICTORY OPINIONS.. I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH PROPHECIES AND AM NO LONGER IN A POSITION TO ANSWER."

5. ON DR. KISSINGER'S ROLE BEFORE BECOMING SECSTATE: "HE WAS RATHER BUSY WITH VIETNAM AND CHINA. I WAS CONCERNED WITH THE NEAR EAST. I ESTABLISHED THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE U.S., AND I WAS THE FIRST AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE TO VISIT EGYPT SINCE DULLES."

6. ON U.S. PUBLIC OPINION: "IN AMERICA, PUBLIC OPINION HAS PERHAPS NOT SHIFTED IN FAVOR OF THE ARABS, BUT AT LEAST THE NEAR EAST CRISIS HAS ATTRACTED EVERYBODY'S ATTENTION."

7. ON TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON: "WHEN LEBANON FEARED FOR ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, WE REASSURED IT. THE SAME FEELING CONTINUES TO PREVAIL IN WASHINGTON TODAY: LEBANON'S INTEGRITY IS ESSENTIAL."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT02528
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750066-1000
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750216/aaaaaofd.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: OVIP, (ROGERS, WILLIAM P)
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006